



THE CITY OF WHITTIER

Gateway to Western Prince William Sound

P.O. Box 608 • Whittier, Alaska 99693 • (907) 472-2327 • Fax (907) 472-2404

PORT & HARBOR COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

**Saturday February 18, 2012 11:00 am
P-12 City Council Chambers**

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Marilynn Heddell called the meeting to order at 11:02 AM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Dave Goldstein	Seat A	A
Marilynn Heddell	Seat B	P
Brad Von Wichman	Seat C	P
Jerry Protzman	Seat D	A
RC Collin	Seat E	A
Larry Bussman	Seat F	P
Charlie Eldridge	Seat G	P

MOTION: Larry Bussman made a motion to excuse Jerry Protzman from today's meeting and to record Dave Goldstein and RC Collin's absence as unexcused.

SECOND: Charlie Eldridge seconded the motion.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously

Dave Goldstein O Marilyn Heddell Y Brad VonWichman Y Jerry Proztman O RC Collin O Larry Bussman Y Charlie Eldridge Y

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT

Harbormaster – Sue Miller
Robert Prunella- Interim City Manager
Jennifer Rogers – Commission Clerk

PUBLIC CITIZENS PRESENT

Pete Heddell

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Brad Von Wichman made a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Agenda of February 18, 2012.

SECOND: Charlie Eldridge seconded the motion.

VOTE: The vote passed by unanimous decision.

Dave Goldstein _O_ Marilynn Heddell_Y_ Brad VonWichman_Y_ Gerald Proztman_O__ RC Collin_O__ Larry Bussman_Y_ Charlie Eldridge_Y__

DISCUSSION:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Brad Von Wichman made a motion to approve the Port & Harbor Regular Meeting Minutes of January 21, 2012 as written.

SECOND: Larry Bussman seconded the motion.

VOTE: The vote passed by unanimous decision.

Dave Goldstein _O_ Marilynn Heddell_Y_ Brad VonWichman_Y_ Gerald Proztman_O__ RC Collin_O__ Larry Bussman_Y_ Charlie Eldridge_Y__

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

A. Harbormaster Report

The employees at the harbor have been busy cleaning and painting. Breaking up ice was required several times throughout the month; more times than had been necessary in previous years. They de-iced the crossover connection between the C and D floats. The hallway and employee break room of the Harbor building was repainted. Sue included a report summarizing repairs that have been assessed and done at the harbor.

She stated that two computers were purchased for the Harbor Office. One computer will be used for hardware parts and the other will rotate throughout the office to replace the current computer used by the receptionist and the harbor staff when needed.

Two boats were discovered under water on two separate occasions. One boat, the Patty Dawn, was discovered under water the morning of January 23rd. The second boat, the Orion, was discovered under water on February 14th. Both boats were boomed off and there was no fuel spill evident in both events.

A diver inspected the damage to the pilings on the B-float. The piling on slips B 11/13 snapped off. Bravo 15/17 is leaning and has a vertical crack on the second piling, which can probably be repaired. The Harbor was asked to put together an all cost to damages that occurred before, during, and briefly after January 6-10, 2012 for disaster relief. She is not certain if the funding will come from FEMA or the state. Sue also included a copy of the 2012 Approved Budget for the City of Whittier for everyone to view as it was requested in the previous meeting.

B. City Manager Report

Bob began his report by reminding everyone that he hired a new lobbyist in Washington D.C. It is the same lobbyist that lobbies for the City of Wrangell; one of the members of the firm is quite impressive. There has been a vast improvement with the work this firm is doing and at a fraction of the cost of the previous lobbyist. Brad Gillman will be here sometime early March. He is from Seward and he specializes in boats and harbors. Bob is looking to get some help from Brad when he arrives.

It is difficult to get federal funding for the float systems, but two sources have been located; one is through Denali and the other is DDA, but it is not guaranteed if funding will be available. There is a projected statewide bond that is being discussed in Juneau for harbors. Bob is in the process of preparing the necessary financial paperwork so that the City can be placed on the list; the City of Whittier will be requesting ten million dollars for the float system.

The Corp. received another \$200,000 which now totals to \$500,000 for the next phase, but we have to match the amount available. Bob is unsure where the match funding will come from as we are not able to get federal funding.

The Head of the Bay is eligible for federal funding. Bob stated that he will meet with the Corp. next week regarding several topics, but one in particular is the Head of the Bay; he will see what they suggest. It is important for the citizens of Whittier to decide what they want at the Head of the Bay. Do they want another harbor or some other type of protective launching? There are several options to consider, but it imperative that the people decide what they want. Again, we have to keep in mind that there will probably not be any federal funding issued.

Bob is also working on a land swap with the ARR. They are interested in some land here and we are interested in some land as well. Bob is in the process of getting the Delong Dock appraised.

Bob and Mayor Luceford were in Juneau last week. He spent a large amount of his time speaking to various legislatures regarding the variety projects they are focusing on at the moment.

Pete Heddell asked Bob if he has seen any plans at the City Office left by previous City Managers beginning with Mark Earnest pertaining to the Head of the Bay in the archives. There were already plans created that he feel we should proceed with. Bob responded by saying that he has seen some files, but stated that in the year he has been there, he still has not recovered all files that he needs. There was not much information remaining on the computer when Janic left; anything from Janic were erased or shredded. Pete then stated that he might have copies of those plans and if he locates them, he will provide Bob with a copy. Pete went on in much detail over the next few minutes over the plans that were created by Mark Earnest when he was in office.

Bob further stated that the Wet Dog Race was discussed at the Anchorage/Whittier Chamber of Commerce meeting and that they were not in favor of the race starting in Whittier. Pete provided the members with information pertaining to the race, but wasn't sure if the information was fact or fiction. He went on to say that the race was to start in Whittier and end in Iliamna; he believes that that information was given to the Chamber. It was also believed that there was no information given regarding the support vessel and plans for search and rescue. Bob stated that the race would be staged; it is a timed race. Approximately three teams would be released per day. Each team would have to pay \$70,000 to enter the race. His opinion is that the race seems to be pretty well planned and that it's too early to say what can happen at this point. Bob says that having the race here could be a good thing for Whittier. In short, Both Bob and Pete feel that the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce was not given sufficient information regarding the Wet Dog Race.

Lastly, Bob informed the Committee that he met with the Commissioner of Transportation and told him that the City of Whittier needs more signs. Signs are needed to direct traffic on the Seward Highway to Whittier. Signs are also needed in Whittier to help people locate the Ferry Terminal. Bob was given a price quote of \$15,000 for three signs. It is important that we get additional signs because people have driven past Whittier towards Seward because currently, there are insufficient signs directing people to Whittier. And those who come to Whittier in search of the Ferry Terminal have trouble locating it.

NEW BUSINESS

OLD BUSINESS

a. Future Harbor & HOPC Renovation

This was discussed in the City Manager's Report

b. Condition of Lu Young Park

Sue Miller stated that Cam Bender has some ideas for the park and will bring those ideas to the next meeting.

c. Webcam

It has been made known that people are interested in having access to view their boat at any time, but several concerns have arisen from that request.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

COMMISSION COMMENTS

Marilynn would like to make a motion to change what is recorded in the Minutes. She would like to just include the motions that have passed as well as the Harbor Master's Report and the City Manager's Report. She would also like for someone to bring up specific topics to discuss during the meeting so that they can accomplish more.

MOTION: Charlie Eldridge made a motion to make a change the way the Minutes are recorded.

SECOND: Larry Bussman seconded the motion.

VOTE: The vote passed unanimously

Dave Goldstein _O_ Marilyn Heddell_Y_ Brad VonWichman_Y_ Gerald Proztman_O__ RC Collin_O_ Larry Bussman_Y_ Charlie Eldridge_Y_

NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

A. Future Harbor & HOPC Renovation

B. Condition of Lu Young Park

C. Webcam

NEXT MEETING ATTENDANCE PLANS

March 17, 2012 @ 11:00 am

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Larry Bussman made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

SECOND: Charlie Eldridge seconded the motion.

VOTE: The vote passed unanimously

Dave Goldstein _O_ Marilyn Heddell_Y_ Brad VonWichman_Y_ Gerald Proztman_O__ RC Collin_O_ Larry Bussman_Y_ Charlie Eldridge_Y_

Meeting adjourned at 11:52 p.m.

Attest:

Jennifer Rogers
Commission Clerk

Marilynn Heddell
Port & Harbor Commission Chairperson